

REMARKS

The present communication is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed April 13, 2010. Claims 1, 4-11, and 14-20 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections of the claims and move this application into allowance.

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting a telephonic interview with Applicants' counsel on August 24, 2010. During the interview, counsel indicated to the Examiner that the cited portions of U.S. Publn. No. 2001/0054168 to Cheung et al. ("Cheung") did not teach the limitations of the claims for which they were asserted. Subsequent to the interview, on August 26, 2010, the Examiner faxed to Applicants' counsel a supplemental explanation of how Cheung relates to claim 1. This supplemental explanation cited different portions of Cheung than in the original rejection.

Claims 1, 4-7, 11, and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publn. No. 2002/0066113 to Utsonomiya et al. ("Utsonomiya") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,169,844 to Arai and in further view of Cheung.

Claims 8-10 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Utsonomiya in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,112,010 to Koyama et al. ("Koyama") and in further view of Cheung.

The Examiner acknowledges that none of Utsonomiya, Arai, and Koyama teach "reproduction management information in which link information to the reproduction procedure information, video/audio section data file names, time information, and video/audio header information are stored" as recited in claim 1. (6/22/10 Office Action, p.6, p.10). However, the Examiner puts forth Cheung to cure these deficiencies.

Cheung fails to cure the deficiencies of Utsonomiya, Arai, and Koyama, at least because Cheung fails to teach "reproduction management information in which link information to the reproduction procedure information, video/audio section data file names, time information, and video/audio header information are stored" as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added).

The Examiner asserts that Cheung discloses reproduction management information in which video/audio section data file names are stored is taught by paragraph [0074] of Cheung. (8/26/10 facsimile). However, this portion of Cheung merely teaches that a codec compresses an audio/video signal, and that an error correction encoder and decoder encodes the compressed signal and applies recording/reproduction information. (Cheung, ¶ [0074]). Nothing in this portion relates to storing video/audio section data file names. Further, nothing in the portions of Cheung originally cited by the Examiner relate to storing video/audio section data file names, as seemingly admitted by the Examiner's issuance of a supplemental explanation. (Cheung, ¶ [0040]; 6/22/10 Office Action, p.6). Indeed, nothing in any portion of Cheung relates to storing video/audio section data file names. Thus, Cheung fails to cure the deficiencies of Utsonomiya, Arai, and Koyama.

The Examiner further acknowledges that none of Utsonomiya, Arai, and Koyama "store end information, representative of whether a piece of reproduction procedure information is a final piece of reproduction procedure information, in a data storage domain corresponding to an individual piece of reproduction procedure information," but also uses Cheung to cure this deficiency (6/22/10 Office Action, p.6, p.10). However, Cheung fails to teach this limitation.

Cheung teaches that if an end portion of a file does not fill a storage block, an attribute representing that the unfilled data area is allocated but not recorded is stored as

real time recording/reproduction information." (Cheung, ¶ [0066]; Fig. 5). Thus, essentially, Cheung merely fills an empty data portion at the end of a storage block in which audio/video data is recorded. This is not the same as storing, in a storage domain corresponding to an individual piece of reproduction procedure information, end information which represents whether a piece of reproduction procedure information is a final piece.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Utsonomiya, Arai, Koyama, and Cheung, taken alone or in any combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Independent claims 8, 11, and 18 include similar limitations to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, and were rejected on similar bases as claim 1. For at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Cheung also does not cure the deficiencies of Utsonomiya, Arai, and Koyama with respect to claims 8, 11, and 18. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections of claims 8, 11, and 18 be withdrawn.

Claims 4-7, 9-10, 13-17, and 19-20 depend from and therefore include the limitations of claims 1, 8, 11, and 18, respectively. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4-7, 9-10, 13-17, and 19-20 are also patentable, and request that their rejections be withdrawn.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' attorney at

Application No.: 10/500,401

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.3-342

(908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: September 1, 2010

Respectfully submitted,
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